



St Augustine's Priory

Smoke Free Policy - Michaelmas 2024

Introduction

At St Augustine's Priory, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We see our commitment to creating a smoke- and vape- free environment and developing pupil's knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking and vaping as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk. Accordingly, this Policy compliments our school's Drug Policy.

Definition

A drug is any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (World Health Organisation). The term includes medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore, "drug" refers to nicotine as well as alcohol, volatile substances, medicines, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances.

Aim

To ensure a whole-school approach to tobacco in order to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking or vaping across the school community.

Objectives

- To provide a smoke free school environment for the whole school community.
- To ensure that tobacco education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use).
- To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to tobacco.
- To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smoke Free Policy.
- To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
- To provide assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke and wish to stop.
- To ensure that the School's Smoke Free Policy is applied when children / young people are taken off site.
- To ensure that vaping is also discouraged as a practice and is prohibited within school in the interests of the children involved.

Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment.

Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long-term users. Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller 2007). The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.



Smoke free school sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role models for children and young people and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school (School Smoke Free Policy Template UK).

This includes the use of e-cigarettes (electronic cigarettes) and vapes due to the following reasons:

- E-cigarettes / vapes are not yet regulated and we are still unsure about the safety of the product. Evidence of the harmful diseases caused by vaping is still unsure but does not suggest it is harmless.
- There are evidence-based Nicotine Replacement Therapy products available on prescription if staff members are trying to quit smoking or having difficulty with nicotine cravings during work hours.
- Young people may be influenced by adults smoking e-cigarettes.

Providing a smoke free environment (Procedure)

- This Policy applies to students, staff, parents / carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the school premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport students.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. the car park, Meadow, Farm, walkways, field, Astro, playgrounds, etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas. This Policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.
- There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.
- The Smoke Free Policy applies to all events / activities held in the school including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any school owned / hired / leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.
- This Policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions / visits / trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking and vaping are not permitted when on duty / looking after students.

Smoking prevention activities (Procedure)

Students

- Students are not permitted to smoke or vape when in uniform or when representing the school in any capacity. This includes all tobacco products and electronic (e) cigarettes/vapes.
- Tobacco and vape education is part of the school's progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHEE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use and vaping) which may be delivered across the curriculum.
- The school supports tobacco and vape education through the transition phase from Juniors to Seniors.
- Parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's drug/tobacco education through home /school activities, drug education evenings and so on.

Staff

- Training on drugs including tobacco is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as pastoral staff and those involved in smoking prevention work.
- Staff are not permitted to smoke or vape in the view of pupils. Staff who do smoke are asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by students (even if it is off the school grounds).



Other Related Polices /Guidance

Within the School this Policy is linked to/consistent with:

- Drug Education Policy
- PSHE Policy/Healthy and Wellbeing Strategy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Promoting Good Behaviour Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Employment Manual

Staff

The School's Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the School's Smoke Free Policy.

The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

Students

Students in breach of this policy may be disciplined in line with our Promoting Good Behaviour policy. They may also be offered the choice to see the School Nurse in school and begin a programme of support. A letter will be sent to parents / carers informing them of the support available and the sanction applied, which may include a suspension.

See the Drugs Education policy for detail on searches, confiscation and disclosures.

Support is be offered to quit smoking as nicotine is highly addictive and research shows that children /young people and adults are more likely to quit smoking with support from a smoking cessation advisor and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). NRT is available on prescription for people of 12 years old and above and certain products can be agreed upon with your stop smoking advisor for example; lozenges but not gum.

Non staff members/school visitors

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the Policy to adhere to the Policy.

Assistance for those who smoke

- Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents/carers and students who would like to stop smoking. Free group and one-to-one support may be available local Stop Smoking Services: Smoke free Ealing <http://www.smokefreeealing.co.uk/>
- Students in the first instance, should access services through the school nurse or their GP Practice, or by contacting the NHS Specialist Stop Smoking Service.
- The School will promote these services regularly.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Policy will be reviewed and developed in consultation with the whole school community. It will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the School premises.

The Policy will be monitored by the Deputy Head Seniors (Pastoral). The Policy will be reviewed every 2 years.

Reviewed November 2024

Next review November 2026